

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8524

AMCONSUL MEDAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 6738

FOL MSG FM SURABAYA SENT JAKARTA ON 3 JUN BEING
REPEATED TO YOU

SURABAYA 0356

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT MILI ID

SUBJ: BRAWIJAYA CHANGE OF COMMAND

1. EAST JAVA'S BRAWIJAYA DIVISION CHANGED COMMANDERS THIS MORNING AT AN IMPRESSIVE AND WELL-EXECUTED (BUT LONG) CEREMONY AND PARADE, PRESIDED OVER BY JAVA REGIONAL COMMANDER WIDODO, AND ATTENDED BY HORDE OF GENERALS AND THEIR BEJEWELLED LADIES. THERE WAS MCUH RAMAH-TAMAH AND NO TENSION EVIDENT, ALTHOUGH CEREMONY IN EFFECT CONSECRATES DEFEAT OF OUTGOING PANGLIMA WIDJOJO SUJONO'S EFENSIVE STRATEGY TO AVOID TRANSFER TO MAKASSAR IN WAKE OF SUMITRO'S DOWNFALL OVER A YEAR AGO.

2. WIDODO'S SPEECH DWELT ON RAMIFICATIONS FOR INDONEISA OF DENOUEMENT IN INDOCHINA. HE REMARKED THAT "IN INDOCHINA SEVERAL NATIONS ARE NOW CLAIMING THEY HAVE ACHEIVED INDEPENDENCE THROUGH REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLE," PROMPTING CERTIN GROUPS IN INDONSIA TOWARD MISCONCEPTION THAT "INDEPENDENCE STRUGGLE" WAS STILL NECESSARY IN THIS COUNTRY. HOWEVER, INDONESI'S INDEPENDENCE STRUGGLE OCCURRED ALMOST THRITY YEARS AGO, AND COUNTRY IS BUSILY DEVELOPING ITS POTENTIAL. WHAT HAPPENED IN INDOCHINA WAS NOT RELEVANT TO INDONEIA, BECAUSE IN INDOCHINA COMMUNISM TOOK ADVANTAGE OF NATIONALISM, WHILE
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IN INDONESIA NATIONALSIM REMAINED PURE, AND COMMUNISM IS BANNED.

GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE WHTEVER MEASURES NECESSARY TO PREVENT RESURGENCE
OF PKI OR THREAT TO STABILITY.

3. ALTHOUGH TROOPS LOOKED TRIM AND MARCHED WELL, PARADE CONVEYED
RATHER MOTELY IMPRESSION OF BRAWWIJAYA DIVISION, LARGELY BECAUSE
OF WIDE RANGE OF WEAPONS, EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES ON DISPLAY.
TO SHINY NEW BRAWIJAYA HEADQUARTERS BEHIND REVIEWING STAND,
WHICH WAS BUILT WITH PROCEEDS FROM THE DIVISION'S MAFIA-LIKE BUSINESS
EMPIRE. NEW PANGLIMA, BRIG GEN WITARMIN, WILL INHERIT THIS EMPIRE
ALONG WITH THE DIVISION ITSELF. HE SEEMED QUITE NERVOUS AND MORE
RESERVED THAN HIS EASY GOING, POPULAR PREDECESSOR.
HOWLAND UNQUOTE TOUSSAINT

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